

Atty Docket No. JCLA6417

Serial No. 09/981,860

REMARKS**Present Status of Application**

Claims 1-16 remain pending in the application. The Office Action mailed December 05, 2003, rejected claims 1-7 under 35 USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Hinotani et al. (US Patent No. 4,920,298). Claims 8-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinotani et al. and further in view of Hasegawa (US Patent No. 5,461,279).

Claims 1, 4, 9-10 have been amended, for clarification purposes. No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims. This Amendment is promptly filed to place the above-captioned case in condition for allowance. After entering the amendments, a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Discussion for 35 USC§102 and 103 rejections

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Hinotani et al. (US Patent No. 4,920,298).

Claims 1, 4 and 9-10 have been amended to provide more descriptions for clarification according to the present invention. As amended, independent claims clearly recite respectively:

*1. A planar fluorescent lamp, comprising of:
a first panel, having a first fluorescent layer thereon;
a second panel, having a second fluorescent layer thereon;
a glass rim, joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has a plurality of electrode seats, and;
two solid electrode structures, each having a solid electrode panel and two electrode leads at two sides of the electrode panel, wherein each electrode lead has a neck region.*

*4. A planar fluorescent lamp, comprising of:
a first panel, having a first fluorescent layer thereon;
a second panel, having a second fluorescent layer thereon;*

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a glass rim joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has a plurality of electrode seats, and;

two solid electrode structures, each having a solid line electrode and two electrode leads at two sides of the line electrode, wherein each line electrode includes a bent serration structure.

8. A planar fluorescent lamp, comprising of:

a first panel, having a first fluorescent layer thereon;

a second panel, having a second fluorescent layer thereon;

a glass rim joined with edges of the first and second panels, wherein the glass rim has a plurality of recesses, and;

a first solid rod electrode structure and a second solid rod electrode structure, wherein the first and second solid rod electrode structures are parallel to each other and closely attached to the glass rim via the recesses.

As noted by the Office Action, Hinotani fails to disclose the electrode rod is **solid**.

In fact, Hinotani does not disclose a solid electrode structure or a solid rod electrode structure as recited in the amended claims, because Hinotani obviously fails to disclose the sold electrode structure having at least a solid electrode panel or the sold electrode structure having at least a solid line electrode. From Hinotani's Figs. 1 and 5-6, the discharge electrode 28 is a channel structure, having a **hollow crater** in the middle. In fact, the electrode 28 is recessed in cross-section, in the form of U-shaped (a channel) (fig. 8), C-shaped (semicircular) (Fig. 9) or V-shaped (fig. 10) in section (Col. 3, lines 47-52).

Obviously, the structure of Hinotani's electrode is evidently not the solid electrode structure having at least the solid electrode panel or the line electrode as claimed in this invention.

As a result, Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 4 patently define over the reference Hinotani. For at least the foregoing reasons, all pending claims patently define over the cited references and should be allowed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection under §102 is respectfully requested.

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Claims 8-11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinotani et al. and further in view of Hasegawa (US Patent No. 5,461,279).

The Office Action relied on Hasegawa for teaching solid rod electrode structure. The Office Action asserted that elements 14, 16 of Hasegawa's teachings were solid rod electrode structures.

Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion.

Based on Hasegawa's statements, "the discharge electrode 14 is shaped to a predetermined cross sectional form readily permitting a discharge, and has connected its opposite ends to lead pieces 16, which are held between cutout portions formed in the peripheral walls of the first and second glass plates to retain the electrode 14 within the discharge chamber" (col. 3, lines 1-7). Nothing is found to support that discharge electrode 14 is a solid rod electrode.

On the contrary, as clearly shown in Fig. 5 (cross-sectional view of Fig. 2 along the line V-V), the cross-section of discharge electrode 14 is V-shaped, which is an unmistakable indication of the discharge electrode 14 having a hollow crater. That is, discharge electrode 14 is not a solid rod electrode.

Therefore, Hasegawa fails to remedy deficiencies of Hinotani. Because both Hinotani and Hasegawa fail to teach, suggest or disclose each and every feature of the present invention, and therefore they cannot possibly arrive the claimed invention, as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 8 patentably distinguishes over both references, either in combination or alone. Dependent claims 11, 13-14 are submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as independent

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claim 8, from which these claims respectively depend, as well as for the additional features that these claims recite.

In view of the above amendment and discussions, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejections is respectfully requested.

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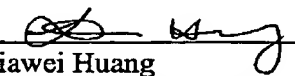
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 3 / 4 / 2004

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